



IN THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appn. Number: 09/405,946
Filing Date: 09/27/99
Applicant: Pierre Hilaire
Appn. Title: Valved Connector with Closure Operated by Axial Movement of the Valve
Examiner: Manuel Mendez GAU: 3763

T-A
45-501
S/E/ee Jr
Mailed April 27, 2001
at Sunnyvale, CA

PROVISIONAL ELECTION

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, District of Columbia 20231

Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed February 27, 2001, please amend the above-identified patent application as follows:

STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-18 are pending in this application.

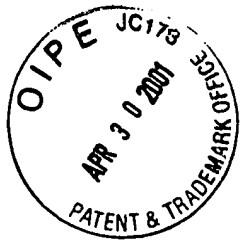
Claims 1-18 are subject to restriction.

PROVISIONAL ELECTION

Applicant provisionally elects to prosecute Group I, Figure 5, claims 1-18. This election is made with traverse.

Currently, all of the claims are generic to both species. Applicant reserves the right to submit claims to the elected species at any time during the prosecution and the non-elected species upon allowance of one or more of the generic claims.

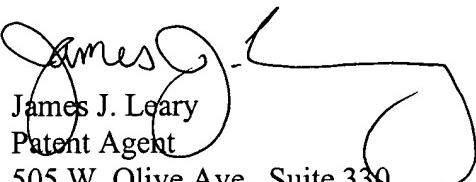
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CONCLUSION

Applicant submits that the claims all define novel subject matter that is unobvious. Therefore, allowance of such claims is submitted to be proper and is respectfully requested. If Examiner deems that additional changes are needed prior to allowance of the claims, Examiner is urged to initiate a telephonic interview with applicant's representative at the telephone number listed below.

Very respectfully submitted,



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